

# London Fire Brigade

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**As Commissioner, I am responsible for providing a fire and rescue function to cover the whole of London, which is the seat of Government and has a number of iconic buildings. I need to ensure a service will be met under all circumstances, and I know Securitas won't let me down.**

Ron Dobson, Commissioner,  
London Fire Brigade

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The London Fire Brigade is the world's third-largest fire and rescue service, responsible for providing crucial fire and rescue cover 24 hours a day across the capital.

### The background

Securitas began working with the fire service in 2009, after the Civil Contingencies Act made it a statutory requirement for those bodies responsible for protecting the UK to ensure robust contingency support was available. For the London Fire Brigade this meant a service was needed of fully-trained personnel, which could be deployed at short notice should its officers be unable to deliver core services during terrorist incidents or industrial action.

### The service

Over 600 Securitas officers have been trained to provide 'Emergency Fire Crew Capability' (EFCC). Each member undergoes a rigorous selection process including health and fitness testing and continuous training to ensure they are equipped with the know-how and physical competencies to protect London and its residents in an emergency.

Specialist training includes a thorough, intensive two-week programme including ladder work, operation of breathing apparatus, incident command, pumps and pumping and health and safety procedures. Demonstrating its commitment to delivering an exceptional service, Securitas ensures every employee also passes a 40-hour refresher course on an annual basis, alongside a familiarisation of equipment and inventories immediately prior to each deployment.

The unit works in teams of six, comprising a crew supervisor, a driver and four additional crew members, all based at secure facilities provided by London Fire Brigade, using London Fire Brigade equipment and responding to emergencies across the length and breadth of London. The crews operate 27 Mercedes fire appliances in total, and can be mustered from locations across the UK within one week. The resource is backed up by more than 20 trained and highly skilled Command Support Team (CST) consisting of ex-senior fire service personnel.

### Results

The partnership has been endorsed by the London Fire Brigade as a resounding success.

Since its introduction, the Emergency Fire Crew Capability has been called into action nine times to protect the capital with only six days' notice, as a result of industrial action. Incidents it has faced have included a number of domestic, industrial and electrical fires and road traffic collisions, which have all been handled efficiently and safely.

A scrapyard fire at a recycling plant in Dagenham in November 2013, which saw 1,500 tonnes of metal alight and was widely reported in the national news, was dealt with thanks to support of Securitas crew. During the same deployment the EFCC team, equipped with breathing apparatus, led three adults and two children to safety following an early morning flat fire in Bromley by Bow.

The highly skilled crew members have demonstrated commitment and passion for their role as emergency support, with many staff missing Christmas Day with their families to provide fire cover for London during strike action in 2013, in addition to mobilising during traditionally one of the fire brigade's busiest nights of the year, on New Year's Eve 2013/14.

According to Ron Dobson, Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade, the EFCC provides a readied, skilled and dedicated unit which is unrivalled in the UK. He says: "Securitas works in partnership with us to offer a model that best fits what we require as the UK's largest fire and rescue service. I believe we have a stronger, more robust contingency model than any other fire service in the country."